

P E A C E M A K E R



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4TH

“Lord, save us! We are perishing.”

—Matthew 8:24

READ: MATTHEW 8:23-27

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

After reading this week's passage from Matthew, read the corresponding account from Mark 4:35-41. Note any similarities or differences that you notice between these two passages (it might help to draw a timeline of both, or to list key phrases side by side.)

What might Matthew be attempting to communicate to his readers about faith through his telling of this story?

According to this passage, the opposite of faith isn't doubt, but fear. What are your thoughts on this?

Read Jonah Chapter 1. Compare this story of Jonah in the sea storm, to Jesus in this week's reading. What do both of these stories teach us about discipleship in times of chaos or confusion?

PRACTICE:

Draw or write about a metaphorical sea storm that is raging before or within you right now. Can you describe the crashing of the waves? What kind of damage are they inflicting? If you can locate yourself in the midst of this, draw or write about your position. Are you in the boat? Observing from the shore? What are you feeling in response to this? What do you think is God's role in this? Where is Jesus?

Write a prayer at the bottom of your page. Explain what you are observing or experiencing, and then ask for whatever it is that you think you need. Be clear in your appeal to God, and let the crafting of your sentences help you to clarify whatever it is that you want in this. End your prayer with words of thanksgiving and gratitude.

When you have finished this, look back on this practice and note any resistance you might have experienced to approaching God in this way.

